Quotable Quotes

News writers often use lots of direct quotes in their stories. Students can become intrepid reporters as they conduct "on-the-street" style interviews with their classmates. Provide them with story ideas (such as "Our Favorite Winter Activities") or invite them to develop their own "scoops." Then let the reporting begin! Invite students to interview one another, taking detailed notes as they gather quotations from their classmates. Once students have several quotes, they can write up their stories. (Students can use tape recorders for the interviews and, just before they're ready to write, transcribe the quotes.) Encourage students to pay attention to the punctuation rules for quotes (sidebar, page 41) and to use the exact words of their interviewees. Later, bind students' completed stories into a class newspaper.

GUOTE ME ON THAT

Invite students to practice their dialoguewriting skills with these engaging and fun punctuation activities By Pamela Chanko

Comic-Strip Quotes Comic strips make terrific venues

for dialogue-writing practice. Collect a supply of comics from a newspaper, and have students clip some of their favorite strips. Then display a strip for the class and point out

the use of speech bubbles. Explain that the words inside the speech bubble are the exact

words the character is saying—just like the dialogue inside quotation marks in a story. Next, invite each student to choose a comic and rewrite it in narrative form, using the correct dialogue conventions, as shown here. Display students' finished work on one side of a bulletin board and the original comics (in

mixed-up order) on the other. Then challenge students to read each comic strip and match it to the written dialogue.



Mords
Famous
People
People

Famous Words Invite students to collect quotes from their favorite celebrities, such as sports heroes, movie stars, musicians, and so on. Provide students with several different sources, such as interview magazines, newspapers, and even autobiographies. You might also let students search through a quotation dictionary (such as *Bartlett's*) to find quotes from historical figures. Ask each student to choose several quotes and write each one on a separate piece of paper. Be sure students write their quotes in conventional dialogue form, for instance: Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "I have a dream."

The class can work as a group to sort the quotes into categories (inspiration, humor, and so on). Once the pages are sorted, bind them together to make a book titled *Famous Words From Famous People*. Students might also enjoy coming up with a few pithy sayings of their own for a second class book: *Famous Words From Our Class*.

Reader's Theater

Performing Reader's Theater is a fun way to help students recognize direct quotes and how to punctuate them. Choose dialogue-rich picture books or short-story excerpts and make copies for several small groups of students. Be sure each piece contains dialogue for at least two characters, plus a number of words that are not in quotation marks. Assign the students in each group roles as dialogue speakers. These students read aloud only their own character's words that are inside quotation marks. Next, choose one student to play the narrator, reading every word that is not in quotation marks-including speech tags! Give groups a chance to practice before performing their pieces for the class. They'll discover that they must switch readers quite often, and sometimes right in the middle of a sentence! Finally, invite students to write their own dialogue-rich story scripts for new performances.



Quotation Punctuation

Share with students the following grammar guidelines for using direct quotes.

- Quotation marks surround the words a person or character says. They appear before and after a speaker's words.
- A comma separates the quote from the rest of the sentence.
- A speech tag can come before the quote: Liza said, "Let's go ice skating." It can also appear after the quote: "Let's go ice skating," Liza said. In longer quotes, the speech tag can appear in the middle: "If the weather is cold enough," said Liza, "let's go ice skating."
- A quotation begins with a capital unless it continues the speaker's sentence.
- Periods are always placed inside ending quotation marks. If the speaker's words end in a question mark or an exclamation point, it also appears inside end quotes.
- In running dialogue, a new paragraph is started each time the speaker changes.
- Quotation marks are used only to show a speaker's exact words, not for summaries or paraphrases: "It's snowing!" said Jeremy.



To Quote or Not to Quote?

Help students distinguish between direct quotes and paraphrases. Write two versions of different sentences on strips, one in paraphrase form and one in direct quote form-but without the quotation marks. For instance: Paul said he needed to go to the store, and Paul said, I need to go to the store. Mix up all the strips and ask students to sort them, deciding which

the appropriate sentences. To extend, invite students to write their own sentence pairs, then trade with a partner to punctuate correctly.

sentences need quotation marks and which do not. Encourage volunteers to take turns adding the quotation marks to



Quotation Locations (Using the Reproducible)

Invite students to become quotation mark experts with the newspaper Reproducible on page 42. Provide each student with a copy of the newspaper page and explain that there is a direct quote in each of the news stories, but that the quotation marks are missing. It's the student's job to be the newspaper's editor-when a quote is found, he or she

Do your homework

must write the marks in the correct locations. Once students have found and punctuated the quote in each article, they can add their own contribution to the story by writing their name on the first line and their own quote on the second line—using quotation marks, of course!

Directions: Today's newspaper has lots of quotes, but no quotation marks! It's your job to be the editor. Each article has one direct quote—find it and write the quotation marks in the correct places. Then add your own quote to the end of each story. Write your name on the first line and your quote on the second line. And don't forget the quotation marks!





Blizzard Hits Town!

chools had to close yesterday after the biggest blizzard in history hit town. I'm sure the students were very excited, Principal Roberts said. When asked about having the day off from school, ______ said, _____

Florida Wintertime doesn't always mean cold temperatures. We haven't had a winter this hot in years! a Florida weather reporter said. We asked several people which they liked better, a warm winter or a cold one. _______said, ______

When to go Sledding

Sledding is becoming a very popular sport here in town. One expert sledder said, I think the best hill is the one on Springfield Street—it's really steep! We also asked children about their other favorite winter activities. told us.

